

Native Plant Pollinator Garden on the Chippewa National Forest

2008 Accomplishments

This project was initiated to create a native plant pollinator garden at the Blackduck Ranger District Administrative site. The garden will be used to educate the public about uses of native plants in landscaping and their value to wildlife, particularly those that rely on flower nectar for food.

The Minnesota Conservation Corps helped prepare the plantings sites for the garden by removing non-native shrubs, removing landscaping rock and timber cribs that were around the building foundation.

District staff met with three landscape companies who shared their ideas and expertise on using native plants in landscaping. The plan they developed included gardens with 26 varieties of wildflowers, 7 varieties of flowering and fruiting shrubs along the walkways around the building and a tall and short grass prairie ecosystem in two distinct areas that are surrounded by the office driveway.

This plan will allow interpretation of individual plants along the walkways and interpretation of two types of prairie ecosystems.

Next spring will be our first full growing season for the gardens. Interpretive signing will be purchased and installed next summer.



Interpretive gardens

Year Awarded: initial award in 2008

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2008):

▪ **Total funding FY08 \$23,600, total expend \$19,600;**

▪ **\$4,000 total remaining**

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Minnesota Conservation Corps, Palmer Nursery and Landscaping

Contact Person & phone number:

Nancy Salminen 218 835-4291



Tall and Short Grass Prairie Gardens



Chippewa National Forest
Blackduck Ranger District
417 Forestry Drive
Blackduck, MN 56630